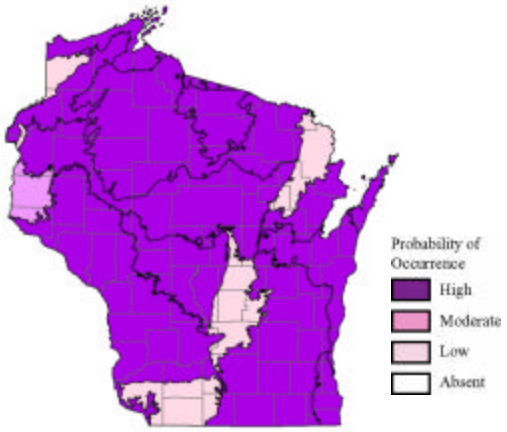
Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	3
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	2
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.4
Area of importance:	5

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape -community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Submergent marsh
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater rivers
Central Sand Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Central Sand Plains	Submergent marsh
Forest Transition	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Forest Transition	Submergent marsh
Forest Transition	Warmwater rivers
North Central Forest	Impoundments/Reservoirs
North Central Forest	Inland lakes
North Central Forest	Submergent marsh
North Central Forest	Warmwater rivers
Northern Highland	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Northern Highland	Inland lakes
Northern Highland	Submergent marsh
Northern Highland	Warmwater rivers
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Submergent marsh
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Warmwater rivers
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Northwest Sands	Inland lakes
Northwest Sands	Submergent marsh
Northwest Sands	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southeast Glacial Plains	Inland lakes
Southeast Glacial Plains	Submergent marsh
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater rivers
Superior Coastal Plain	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Superior Coastal Plain	Submergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Submergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Warmwater rivers

Threats and Issues

- Loss and degradation of deep water marshes and shallow lakes used as migratory stopover areas.
- Housing development and associated increase in watercraft use on northern Wisconsin lakes during spring and fall migration might be affecting stopover use.
- Female Lesser Scaups migrating in the Mississippi Flyway had reduced fresh body masses, lipid reserves, and nutrient reserves by the time they reached northwestern Minnesota in spring, enough to potentially reduce reproductive success; likely causes of body condition include a landscape-scale decline in the availability and/or quality of forage due to poor water quality and habitat related issues (Anteau 2002).
- Lesser and Greater Scaup have switched to eating zebra mussels along the Great Lakes and Mississippi River leading to suspicion and some research indicating that they might be bio-accumulating contaminants.
- Various bacterial infections and nematodes (related to an exotic snail) have caused large die-offs in recent years.
- Lack of information on where the Lesser Scaup that migrate through Wisconsin winter and nest.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Continue to research impacts of forage quality at stopover areas on reproductive output and condition. Provide high quality forage in key stopover areas within the Great Lakes and Mississippi River flyways. Consider the use of refuges at key stopover locations to increase the availability of high-quality forage for resting birds.
- Research Lesser Scaup life history including potential differences between sub-populations that nest in boreal forest and those that nest in prairie/ parkland.
- Work with Tribes to restore and enhance wild rice areas in northern Wisconsin.